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hints to cultivators as to the manures most likely to benefit the various crops and would also be able to advise them in dealing with the cocoanut blight which was threatening to exterminate an industry responsible for over 50 per cent. of the total exports from the State. His Association, he said, further suggested that the office might be worked in conjunction with His Highness the Maha Raja's Botanical gardens and that, in addition to a laboratory in Trivandrum, there might be branches in different parts of the country, one of which being in Peermade, a central place, and, owing to its medium elevation, suitable for the completion of experiments. Three months of the officer's time might be spent in the Hills and, under these conditions, he said that his Association would probably be prepared to assist financially and also suggested the appointment of a Commission to go into the matter thoroughly and formulate some definite scheme for the consideration of Government.

Mr. H. M. Knight (Member, Cardamom Planters' and Rubber Planters' Associations) spoke in support of the request.

76. ***Maintenance of cattle depots and seed-bulls.***

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) suggested that seed-bulls should be maintained, and cattle depôts for the sale of good breeds should be opened by Government in each Division.

Dewan's reply.—(Subjects 72—76) Government recognise that the methods of agriculture now in vogue probably require improvement and that the ryots are probably suffering from ignorance. But there is no use in starting demonstration farms and organising a staff of Inspectors, till we get some man competent to supervise the whole work, some man who has the requisite training to be the head of a department like that. So, the question of the necessity of having a Scientific officer to assist agriculture in the State, which has been dealt with by Mr. LeFeuvre and Mr. Knight, is the first thing to be taken up. In that connection, I am glad to tell you that one of our young men has recently taken the Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture in the Edinburgh University and he is now continuing his studies at Leipzig in Germany. He has been sent to Europe by the State and the expenses of his education are being borne by the State. We have been receiving reports about him from Edinburgh and they are all extremely favourable. As soon as that young man returns, we shall be in a position to see how far we can utilise his services. But till we get him, Government will not feel justified in launching on any

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expenditure, either by way of opening additional demonstration farms or appointing agricultural Inspectors. On these general lines, I would now answer the various questions.

No. 72.—The question of agricultural banks will be dealt with in answer to question No. 77. There are now two Demonstration farms, one at Trivandrum and one at Quilon. The former has been in existence for nearly 10 years and is now under the management of an agricultural graduate. Government are not prepared to open more farms just now.

No. 73.—This is a matter mainly for private enterprise. I may, however, say that I had occasion to study the subject sometime ago and the conclusion arrived at by me was that the advantages of grain banks were over-estimated and the difficulties incident to their management very imperfectly realised.

No. 74.—Government heartily sympathise with the desire for the introduction of improved agricultural methods. I must, however, point out that this is a matter mainly for the ryots themselves. The Superintendents of the Agricultural farms at Trivandrum and Quilon will gladly give their advice and help to such ryots as ask for the same.

No. 75.—I have already given my answer to this question.

No. 76.— Government have sanctioned the purchase and maintenance of three seed-bulls at three central stations in the State. Government do not consider it necessary to maintain cattle-depôts at Sirkar expense. That is a matter for private enterprise.

77. *Agricultural associations and co-operative credit societies.*

Mr. K. C. Joshua (Member, Ambalapuzha Taluk) prayed for the establishment of agricultural banks and associations and co-operative credit societies.

Dewan's reply.— Agricultural associations are unofficial bodies which must be organised and maintained by the people themselves. The best thing that Government can do for them is to leave them to develop on unofficial lines. In regard to co-operative societies, Government will take into consideration the question of legislating on the subject.

78. *Agricultural schools.*

The member also urged the advisability of establishing agricultural schools and providing other means of instruction in agriculture.

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